RADIO NEWS LETTER

Vol. II October, 1948 No. 2

Issued Now and Then by the Department of Radio,
Indiana University

* * * * * * * * * *

APOLOGIA

Anyhow, it's still 1948---that's something! Script deadlines we meet 'cause we gotta---maybe, that's why NEWSLETTER hasn't been on the stands, lo these many months.....it's the only item around here to which we can say, Manana, manana! You'll be glad to hear, though, that we're still a going and growing concern and the result of this over-long break in the line of communications from us to you should be an extra-special, de-luxe current edition!

Previews into the back pages include---Not so hot off the press info on our rover boy (DOC's Adventures in Deutcheland, parts I, II, III, IV, ad infinitum---he's not back yet but will be by the time you read this), new ideas for programs plus NEW PROGRAMS (action's what we want and that's what we get---sometimes)----new staff members and those being groomed for these coveted positions (such as Frances Sasse's and Sam McClain's recent additions, blue and pink respectively, and Eloise's forthcoming blessed event)---we had a conference too with celebrities yet-----!

We're worn out after the build-up, so will save some of our strength for more detailed accounts---next slide please---we mean turn the page and start catching up with us, if you can! We know you still want to!

WHO'S WHO ON THE STAFF

Still with us are our four main-stays, Doc Skornia, Bob Lee, George Johnson, and Fred Gerber on the top level.

Then in the lower income brackets, Fred Brewer, Eloise Sipes, and Jim Ratcliffe still manage to keep eating.

New blood in the family include, John R. Mickey, graduate of Emporia State Teacher's College, Production Director for the Kansas "Radio Classroom" for the past two years and 3½ years of radio work on KTSW in Emporia under his belt. His position here is that of Assistant Production Director for the "School of the Sky."

Ruby Anderson comes to us by way of WOWO and WIRE where for the past five years she has done publicity and promotion work in addition to producing her own shows. We expect that Ruby will be a much needed addition to the Department in giving the old homestead the kind of publicity it has been needing for some time.

Jan Tyroler, ex-Story Lady for the "School of the Sky" found working on the manual so broadening this summer (38" around the hips) that she has become a permanent member of the staff this fall as Research Assistant, a job which covers a multitude of sins (such as getting out a Newsletter f'rinstance.)

Dorothea Katzman who took over the "Children's Corner" from Jule Shaw (who incidentally won an Honorable Mention at this year's Ohio State Institute for her production of that show) is still with us. Also John Rees is the new student technician working with ever-busy Ratcliffe. And last but by no means least, the hardest working section of this Department has two new secretaries: Mrs. June Burger, graduate of Indiana State Teachers College who is taking Eloise's place and Miss Dorla Ford formerly of Central Business College who makes her home in Mr. Johnson's office.

* * * * * * * * * * *

SUMMERTIME SCHEDULE

Many of our programs, like many of our staff members went off the air during the summer season, but such long-time favorites as the "Indiana University Roundtable", "The Children's Corner", and the Dramatic Workshop carried on, heat or no! Also one of this year's new innovation's "The Bobby Soxers of the Air", continued to make use of the local high-school talent.

Dorothea Katzman, who's been directing "The Children's Corner" started working with a group of youngsters from 7 to 14 years old with and eye toward using them on the kid shows instead of we grown-ups trying hard to recapture our lost youth. So every afternoon during the summer the studio was filled with these little people and their stage-door mommas. Dorothea thinks we'll have a very fine crop of future Bernhard's and Barrymores ere long. Martha Walstrum, P.G., acts as Story Lady on these Saturday shows and does a smooth job.

* * *

A T T E N T I O N

WASHINGTON - SPEAKS

Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, Wayne Coy, really let go with both barrels, when he spoke at Convocation here in July as part of the Radio in Education Conference. His remarks were particularly felt by those of us at I.U. who've been hoping for several years now that our call letters would soon have a station to keep them company. Mr. Coy said that educators were again missing out on one of the most valuable teaching aids that exists by not taking advantage of the FM channels which have been set aside, earmarked for their use. These channels cannot be held indefinitely and if signs of action are not forthcoming from these educational institutions they will have to be allocated to commercial operators.

THANK YOU, MR. COY!!

DOC IN DEUTCHELAND OR INNOCENT ABROAD

Fame comes to I.U. in many ways. President Wells went to Germany and was picked up by the Russians (temporarily, that is). On the other hand, our own Doc Skornia also has been paying a visit to that troubled land, but he wasn't picked up. In fact, during the past four months, he's been giving a shot in the arm to German radio, which under his guidance, has perked up considerably. Doc left here in June on a four month War Department assignment which had as its chief purpose, the revitalizing and reorganizing of what was left of German radio. He made his headquarters at Berlin's RIAS, and from there branched out to Munich, Bremen, Frankfurt, Heidelberg, Karlsrube, Stuttgart, et al. His first job was that of Control Officer--checking stories of pro-American newsmen and commentators for psychological slanting. But that was only the beginning. After a few months of dusting off his German here at home, he was able to lecture on production techniques to the German producers, work with the script writers and prepare a manual for their use---all this, plus turning out some educational programs for them.

According to his letters, he's also had the opportunity to cache away a few good ideas which we may be able to use here. He says that the German engineers are tops and incidentally, wishes his students at I.U. were as attentive to his lectures as the Germans are..... although he wrote "If you think I'm bad in English, you ought to hear me in German!"

We're counting on the air-lift to set the good Doctor down in our midst again on or about the 10th of October--and we'll make him write his own copy for the next Newsletter and give you a real blow by blow description of what's going on over there.

* * * * * * * * * * *

BOB'S NEW BABY

The fact that we haven't gotten our radio station hasn't dimmed the enthusiasm of our program director, Bob Lee, who is all the time hunting for more ambitious projects to undertake. Latest brain-storm is an hour show to be presented weekly, using dramatizations of plays, novels, and poems which have become literary classics.

The project went beyond the planning stage this summer when Bob and company adapted and produced an hour version of "Hamlet"---using the stage of the Little Theatre as a studio, with a very complex mike set-up and drawing on the best talent still surviving the ordeals of summer session...Bob came up with a very fine show and a good idea of what can be done with things of this sort.

We now have a list of 30 or so prospective shows, including "The Divine Comedy," "Alcestis," "Alice in Wonderland," and "Cyrano de Bergerac" and only this week got the promise of an additional source of acting, writing, and musical talent from among members of the faculty.

We expect to get the series under way in two or three weeks, so if you can pick up Bloomington on your sets--listen for us--in fact, tell N.B.C.'s University Theatre to listen too--they may pick up a few good pointers.

SCHOOL OF THE SKY---SECOND EDITION

It's school time again and as we go to press, the"Indiana School of the Sky" takes to the air-waves for its second year of broadcasting to the schoolrooms of Indiana and neighboring states.

The first year had not drawn to a close before George Johnson was lining up the experts (and those so-called) making plans for a bigger and better 48-49 series. What they all came up with looks like this:

Monday----Book Series for grades 4 to 8
Tuesday---Music Series for grades 6 to 10
Wednesday-History Series for grades 6 to 10
Thursday--Science Series for grades 9 to 12
Friday----Vocational Guidance Series for grades 9 to 12

Headquarters were set up in the basement catacombs this summer, and while some folks were enjoying the beauties of summer, swarms of research assistants, writers and publicity people worked and wilted in the hopes of turning out a better than ever before Series. As you can see from the above schedule, we've grown up this year to include programs especially designed for the secondary schools. Our broadcast outlets thus far include, WSUA, Bloomington; WCSI, Columbus; WBOW-FM, Terre Haute; WJOB, Hammond; WOWO, Fort Wayne. The list is still growing. Broadcast time is still 2:15 every afternoon for those stations which take us live, and transcriptions are furnished by the audio-visual laboratory to those stations who schedule us for other times. There are twenty-six shows in each Series, and Fred Gerber, after establishing a basic format for each, has tried to keep the scripts and presentations as flexible as possible. This means that this year there are no Mr. Ben's or Story Lady's, but a continually changing group of characters making their contribution in whatever way the writers think best in order to present the material most effectively.

The "School of the Sky" has attracted much attention and favorable comment from educators and commercial radio people all over the country. We really think we've got something which is not only a worthwhile educational feature, but is good entertainment too.

* * * * * * * * * *

AUDITIONS

We didn't rely on Daily Student ads to bring our talent to us this year, Fred Gerber, that old "School of the Sky" man went out after the young hopefuls during enrollment week at the Fieldhouse---when they were too confused by the masses of paper being thrust at them to know what they were doing. At any rate, Fred's ambitious scheme paid off dividends to the tune of about 500 prospective actors, writers, and technicians. They and we have been falling all over each other at the studio for the past two weeks. It got so confusing, the staff were auditioning each other. With about 200 people yet to listen to, we've already signed up some really good people (contracts and salaries to be discussed later we tell'em---and they believe us yet!) Well, we may not make much money, but we have a lot of fun.

* * * * * * * * * * *

TELEVISION IN OUR TOWN

As soon as Sarkes Tarzian goes on the air with station WTTV, Bloomington can boast of being the smallest community in the United States to h ve its own television station. According to latest reports, operation is expected to begin within a very short time. Mr. Tarzian has already approached the Department with the idea of having us program two hours a day for him, which will really be an advantage for students and staff alike to get in on the ground floor of the world's newest mass media outlet.

* * * * * * * * *

CANADA CALLING

We were fortunate this su mer in being able to borrow Len Peterson, one of CBC's top script writers from the Writer's Conference which was held on campus during the time that our own Radio Conference was going on. Mr. Peterson conducted a writer's workshop in our studio which many of the radio students attended.

* * * * * * * * *

PERSONALS--WHO'S DOIN' WHAT AND WHERE

Way back in May, Eldonna June Poole married Frank P. May at South Bend, Indiana.

Paul Boxell is now Public Relations Counsel for Hill and Knowlton, Inc. and can be reached c/o Crosley Division, Avco Manufacturing Corp., Cincinnati, Ohio.

Tom Custer'snow associated with Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., Akron, Ohio, and his home address is 73 Eastgay Drive, Akron, Ohio.

Nate Kaplan is now news writer at KNX, CBS in Hollywood, Cal. His home is at 2302 Malcolm Ave., Los Angeles, 25, Cal.

Brad De Marcus has a position with the Pearson Music Co. in Naptown.

We believe Jim Cathcart's new address is 2143 N. Lamer St., Burbank, Cal. (And Jim, we're not do ng anything about television, but dreaming.)

Larry Fromer informs us that he has been doing some interesting work adapting great novels for dramatization at at WOL in Washington, D.C.

Foster Harmon is no longer at WKBN but can be reached c/o Harry Foster at E. State St., Athens, Ohio.

Lee Hall is with the Carter Advertising Agency, 912 Baltimore, Kansas City, 6, Mo.

Bill Pierce informs us that he is now with the Sales Dept. of Standard Rate and Data, 333 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago.

(continued on page 8)

Mrs. David J. Woodlock (Joanne Huffington) has moved to 6615 University Drive, University City, 5, Mo., and when last heard from was still doing the Mary Lee Taylor show for CBS and other free lance jobs.

We hear from Fred Collins at WOWO in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, quite often.

Among the more recent departures:

Kay and Leo Jones are now at the University of Buffalo where Leo is teaching in the Drama Department, and Kay is doing occasional radio and television shows.

Jack and Jule Shaw are up the line at Purdue.

Byron ("Red") and Elaine Doenges are in Honolulu at the University of Hawaii.

Suzanne Reeder, now Mrs. Richard Roberts is back on this here campus.

Vera Mae Massey stopped in to see us this summer and is still being kept busy with radio shows in N.Y.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

* * * * * * * * * * *

* * * * * * * *

* * * *

*

S L I P

U S

Y O U R

I N F O

W E ' L L

P A S S

I T

A L O N G

*

* *

*

Scanned from the National Association of Educational Broadcasters Records
at the Wisconsin Historical Society as part of
"Unlocking the Airwaves: Revitalizing an Early Public and Educational Radio Collection."

A collaboration among the Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities,
University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Communication Arts,
and Wisconsin Historical Society.

Supported by a Humanities Collections and Reference Resources grant from
the National Endowment for the Humanities

MITH MARYLAND INSTITUTE FOR TECHNOLOGY IN THE HUMANITIES

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WISCONSIN UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE Humanities

Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication/collection do not necessarily reflect those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.